

DECORATIVE STRUCTURE AND CEILING SYSTEM

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of international application serial no. PCT/US02/22947, filed on July 19, 2002, designating the United States and published in English, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/306,516, filed on July 19, 2001.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates generally to a decorative structure and more particularly to structures suspended from a ceiling.

[0003] Traditional suspended ceiling systems formed from suspended grids of acoustically absorbent tiles are commonly found in commercial work spaces such as professional offices. While such systems provide a pleasant and acoustically absorbent space, designers and architects who desire to create the feel of an open loft space often object to the uniformity and lowered ceiling height created by conventional drop ceilings. Thus, more and more businesses are opting for so-called open plenum ceiling designs. In the open plenum, no suspended ceiling is provided. Rather, the hard deck or hard ceiling of the building along with the HVAC duct work, wiring and the like are exposed. Open plenum ceilings are more commonly found in retail stores and similar commercial settings, but also can be found in office spaces.

[0004] In attempting to further define a space within the open plenum layout, many designers use reconfigurable partitions that may be considerably lower than the hard ceiling. Furthermore, depending upon the structure of an in-door space, an open plenum design,